BES

Year 8 History-Mr. Lohre

 **Conquistadores**

**What motivated the Conquistadores to voyage to, and conquer new lands?**

**The Main Reasons! God, Gold, and Glory….**

**God: They were motivated to spread their religion- The Christian faith- to other people’s and other lands.**

**Gold: They wanted to get rich. They were motivated by the desire to get rich and make their fortunes. They were greedy…**

**Glory: They wanted to become famous, to get lands and titles, to be recognized by their king and to get positions of power and improve their social status…**

**Also… They were patriotic and they wanted to expand the influence, power and territory of their King and Country.**

**How were such small groups of men able to conquer large empires with significantly larger populations?**

**Three Main Reasons… Guns, Germs, and Steel….**

**The Europeans had several technological advantages over the native peoples of the Americas and other parts of the world.**

1. **They had gunpowder weapons. Europeans had guns, firearms call arquebus’ , pistols, and canons that could fire explosive shells.**
2. **Europeans has steel weapons and armour. They had steel swords, steel helmets and steel breastplates. They also used steel lances and pikes and halbreds.**
3. **Europeans had horses . Horses could be used for transportation, pulling or carrying things and people, and could be used in battle as a weapon of war. Spanish horses were trained for war and could be used as a weapon. They also used trained wardogs to attack their enemies.**
4. **Germs. Disease. The Europeans brought with them diseases that the native people of the Americas and other parts of the world had no immunity to. The Common cold, the flu, chicken pox, and small pox, could wipe out entire communities and totally devastated local populations.**
5. **Ruthlessness and desperation. The Conquistadores were extremely ruthless, vicious, and cruel towards the native peoples of the Americas. They would stop at nothing to get what they wanted. Most of them were hardened, veteran soldiers who had fought against the Muslim Moors in the re-conquest of southern Spain. Cortes burned his ships when he reached the New World, so that his men knew that they could not go back. They had to win or die.**

**Weaknesses of the native peoples of the Americas.**

**The native peoples of the Americas had developed large and complex civilizations. Due to their location and the nature of the other civilizations around them, they had not developed several key technologies that the Europeans used successfully against them.**

1. **They were effectively “Stone Age” societies. The American civilizations located in the New World only had limited metal working technologies. They had not developed metallurgy as a technology for tools or weapons. They did, however, learn to work gold and silver, two metals that were used mainly for decoration, ornamentation and jewelry. Gold and silver both are very soft metals and do not make good weapons.**
2. **They had weapons based stone and volcanic rock. The arrow tips and spear tips were either flint ( stone), or obsidian (a volcanic rock). Both Flint and Obsidian can be shaped to make a very fine, or sharp point, but are also very brittle, and can shatter if they strike a very hard surface, like steel. Aztec and Incan swords and clubs had pieces of sharpened obsidian embedded in them and were very effective against animals or people who were not wearing steel or leather armor. The obsidian in these weapons shattered on impact with the hard steel weapons and armour of the European conquistadores.**
3. **The Native peoples of the Americas had not seen or domesticated large animals such as horses, donkeys or cattle. Horses and donkeys were very useful for riding and carrying or pulling cargo and heavy loads such as cannons and wagons. Horses could be ridden by humans giving an advantage in speed height and striking power in battle. Additionally groups of soldiers mounted on horseback could move very quickly and charge an enemy force in battle, giving them an advantage.**
4. **The native warriors did not wear armour, but went into battle bare-chested or wearing light, cotton or linen suits in the shape or form of animals such as Eagles and Jaguars. They were very easily killed or injured by the swords and bullets of the Conquistadores.**
5. **The native peoples of the New World did not have immunity to diseases brought to the New World by the Europeans. The common cold could wipe out whole villages and diseases such as influenza (the flu) and smallpox killed hundreds of thousands of native people and devastated and depopulated entire regions.**
6. **Superstition. The Conquistadores, especially Cortes, used the Native People’s religious beliefs against them. Cortes was aware of the Aztec Belief that a White-skinned god, Quetzocoatl, was due to arrive in the year that he arrived in Mexico. (Year 1 Reed). According to Aztec belief, Quetzocoatl was to arrive from the east on a large wooden ship and was to have white skin and hair on his face. Cortes pretended to be the god Quetzocoatl, and took advantage of this situation to gain the trust of the Aztecs and then betray them and attack and kill large numbers of them.**

Arquebus



Soldier firing an arquebus

The **arquebus** ([/ˈɑːrk(w)ɪbəs/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA/English) [*AR-k(w)ib-əs*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3APronunciation_respelling_key);), derived from the German word *Hakenbüchse* ("hook gun"), was a form of [long gun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_gun) that appeared in Europe and the Ottoman Empire during the 15th century. Although the term *arquebus* was applied to many different forms of firearms from the 15th to 17th centuries, it originally referred to "a [hand-gun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hand_cannon) with a hook-like projection or lug on its under surface, useful for steadying it against battlements or other objects when firing". These "hook guns" were in their earliest forms defensive weapons mounted on German city walls in the early 1400s. The addition of a shoulder stock, priming pan, and [matchlock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matchlock) mechanism in the late 15th century turned the arquebus into a handheld firearm and also the first firearm equipped with a trigger. The exact dating of the matchlock's appearance is disputed. It could have appeared in the Ottoman Empire as early as 1465 and in Europe a little before 1475. The heavy arquebus, which was then called a [musket](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musket), was developed to better penetrate plate armor and appeared in Europe around 1521. Heavy arquebuses mounted on wagons were called *arquebus à croc*. These carried a [lead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lead) ball of about 3.5 ounces (100 g). A standardized arquebus, the *caliver*, was introduced in the latter half of the 16th century. The name "caliver" is derived from the English corruption of calibre, which is a reference to the gun's standardized bore. The caliver allowed troops to load bullets faster since they fit their guns more easily, whereas before soldiers often had to modify their bullets into suitable fits, or were even forced to make their own prior to battle.

The matchlock arquebus is considered the forerunner to the [flintlock musket](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flintlock#Muskets).

An infantryman armed with an arquebus is called an **arquebusier**.





 